



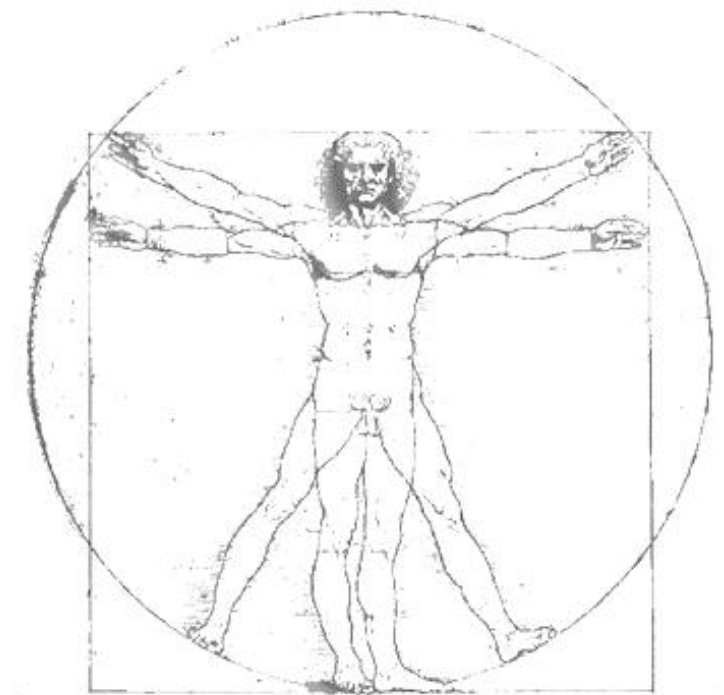
# The European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism

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Chair of the High Level Group  
of the European Commission's  
Scientific Advice Mechanism*

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm>

# Reasons for the recent "renaissance" of science advice

- More and more global political challenges requiring science advice at transnational level
- Increasingly complex, interdependent policy issues needing multi-disciplinary science advice
- Knowledge generated at unprecedented speed
- Science opening up (open access, citizen science, transparency, etc.).
- Strive for better regulation and value for money.



## Why was SAM established?

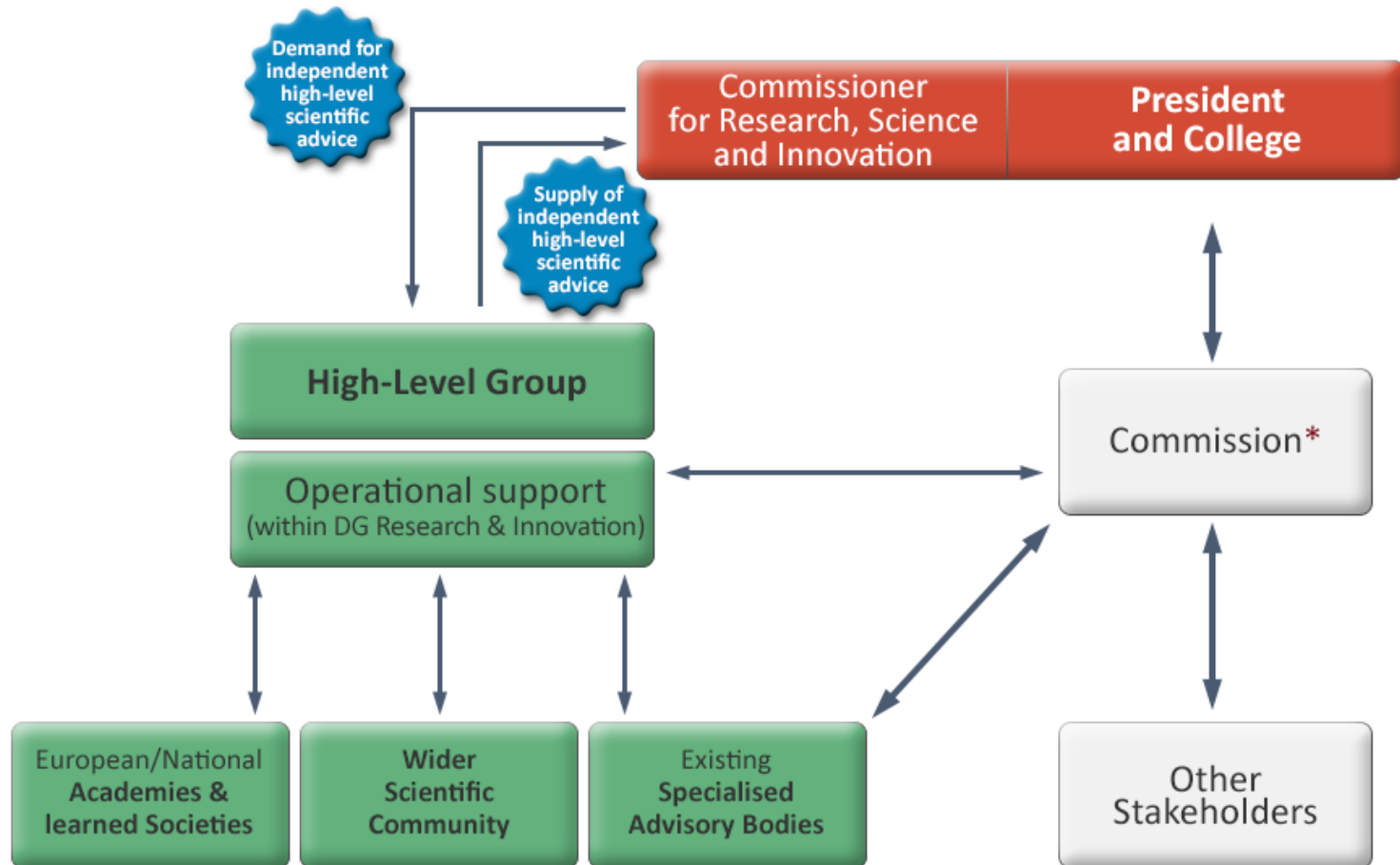
- Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) established in 2015 to provide scientific advice to the Commission that is:
  - **independent**
  - **multi-disciplinary**
  - **transparent**
  - Tailored to the **specificities of EU policy making**
- With the overall objective to better **match the supply and demand** side of science advice



## Main features of SAM

- **High Level Group** of seven members with outstanding expertise and covering a wide range of scientific fields  
-> providing high quality, timely and independent scientific advice
- Operational support from DG Res. & Inno.
- Structured relationship with **national academies** and other bodies  
-> draw on the wide range of scientific expertise in Europe.
- Directly reporting to the **College of Commissioners**, the political leaders of the European Commission

# Elements of the Scientific Advice Mechanism



\* Including the Joint Research Centre which provides in-house scientific support

# The members of the High-level Group of Scientific Advisors



# Tasks

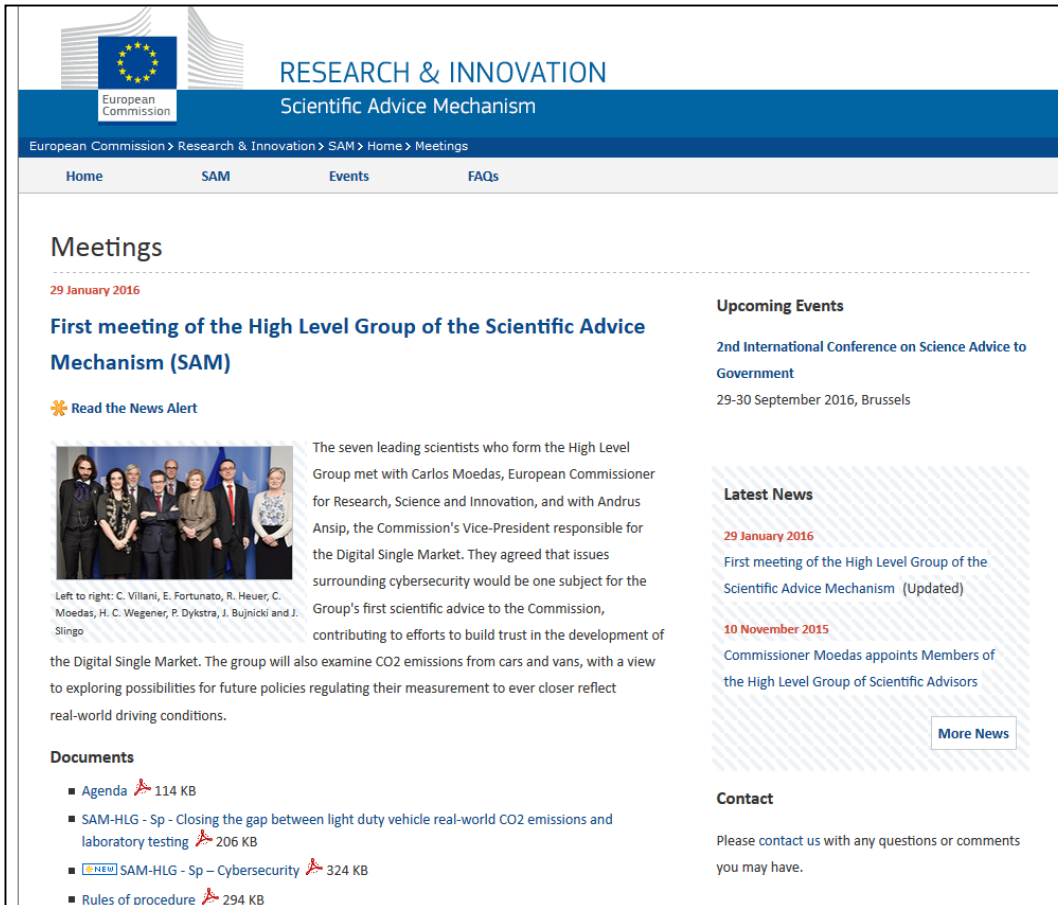
## Responsive

- Provide independent scientific advice to EU policy and legislation at any time and in any policy field
  - long, medium, and short-term incl. in crisis situations
  - without duplicating existing advice
  - including an assessment of the robustness and limitations of the evidence

## Proactive

- Identify policy issues for which scientific advice is needed
- Recommend improvements for the scientific advice system
- Enhance synergies with other science advisory structures

# The SAM website is used to ensure transparency




The screenshot shows the SAM website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text "RESEARCH & INNOVATION Scientific Advice Mechanism". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "European Commission > Research & Innovation > SAM > Home > Meetings". A secondary navigation bar contains links for "Home", "SAM", "Events", and "FAQs".

## Meetings

29 January 2016

### First meeting of the High Level Group of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)






[Read the News Alert](#)



The seven leading scientists who form the High Level Group met with Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and with Andrus Ansip, the Commission's Vice-President responsible for the Digital Single Market. They agreed that issues surrounding cybersecurity would be one subject for the Group's first scientific advice to the Commission, contributing to efforts to build trust in the development of the Digital Single Market. The group will also examine CO2 emissions from cars and vans, with a view to exploring possibilities for future policies regulating their measurement to ever closer reflect real-world driving conditions.

Left to right: C. Villani, E. Fortunato, R. Heuer, C. Moedas, H. C. Wegener, P. Dykstra, J. Bujnicki and J. Slingo

#### Documents

- Agenda  114 KB
- SAM-HLG - Sp - Closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO2 emissions and laboratory testing  206 KB
-  SAM-HLG - Sp – Cybersecurity  324 KB
- Rules of procedure  294 KB

#### Upcoming Events

2nd International Conference on Science Advice to Government  
29-30 September 2016, Brussels

#### Latest News

29 January 2016  
First meeting of the High Level Group of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (Updated)

10 November 2015  
Commissioner Moedas appoints Members of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors

[More News](#)

#### Contact

Please contact us with any questions or comments you may have.

[https://ec.europa.eu/  
research/sam/  
index.cfm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm)



# First Topics Addressed by SAM



Cybersecurity



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from  
light-duty vehicles

# Closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and laboratory testing



# Methodology

- Systematic scoping process – what is the question?
- Systematic and thorough evidence gathering consisting of three different elements:
  1. Review of the scientific literature an interaction with in house EC services incl. JRC – *Spring 2016*
  2. Scientific expert workshop - *June 2016*
  3. Stakeholder meeting – *September 2016*
- Adaption of SAM HLG Opinion expected - *end of October 2016*



# Cybersecurity



# State of play

- Focus on digital identities for a digital single market
- Evidence gathering ongoing
- Organisation of an experts' workshop
- SAM HLG Opinion foreseen in early 2017

## Next Steps

- New topics (responsive and pro-active)
- Elaborate working procedures for the different elements of SAM
- Establish systematic evidence reviews to ensure quality
- Exchange ideas, experiences and best practices with existing science advice structures, e.g. through EU-ANSA, the European Science Advisers Forum (ESAF) etc.

# Lessons learned

- Group dynamics important
- Identification of policy issues requiring scientific advice in the longer term challenging
- Addressing topics falling in between portfolios and competences challenging